



WHERE partnerships MAKE THE Difference!

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

June 13, 2011

Dear Commissioners:

By traditional standards, Marlboro County, South Carolina would seem ripe for economic growth: bisected by two U.S. highways, within a two-hour drive of a major seaport, two state capitals and a financial center, and blessed with a clean environment and abundant outdoor recreation activities. But in the 21st Century, economic growth in Marlboro County depends heavily on the availability of advanced communications services.

That is why the Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership strongly supports the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile. This combination promises to substantially increase the availability of high-speed broadband services, particularly in rural areas. We understand that the national projections call for reaching more than 97% of the population nationwide with advanced mobile broadband technology.

When a business evaluates an area for expansion or relocation, advanced communications is one of the key issues they consider. Connecting the business to customers, suppliers or other departments – perhaps around the world – is essential. Just as important is the ability of employees to connect to each other and to the office. And, in an increasingly mobile world, availability of reliable and advanced wireless service can determine the success or failure of a business – and of our efforts to grow Marlboro County.

In an economy such as this, communities like ours must capitalize on every opportunity to grow and generate jobs for our citizens. This merger will help lay the foundation for an important tool we need.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ronald R. King'.

Ronald R. King
Executive Director

Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell